

TWO PERENNIAL MINUARTIAS FROM THE ANTILEBANON

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Post & Dinsmore (1932) record only one perennial species of *Minuartia*, the widespread *M. juniperina*, from the Antilebanon mountain range (Jebel esh Sharqi) between Syria and Lebanon. Since then two descriptions of supposedly new perennial species have been published. The first was that of *M. parvulum* by Rechinger in 1951 and was based on a fragment collected for Mousterde by the children of the village of Maaloula (Syria). An extensive gathering made by Davis (No. 6586A) from Sahel above Nebk (again in Syria) was the basis of the second species, *M. antilibanotica*, published by the author last year (cf. McNeill, 1961).

Rechinger related Mousterde's specimen to *M. aucheriana* (Boiss.) Bornm. or *M. rimarum* (Boiss. & Bal.) Mattf., both members of Section *Acutiflorae*, while the affinities of the plants described as *M. antilibanotica* are with *M. anatolica* and *M. setacea* in Section *Minuartia* Series *Setaceae*. The main distinguishing characters between the two groups are in sepal structure, particularly the number and nature of the nerves and the presence or absence of a broad scarious margin (cf. Mattfeld, 1922 and McNeill, 1962). A recent examination of the holotype of *M. parvulum* has shown, however, that Rechinger was wrong in his assessment of its affinity and that it is almost identical and certainly conspecific with Davis 6586A, the type of *M. antilibanotica*.

Rechinger's error was probably due to the presence of rather prominent lateral sepal nerves (for a member of Series *Setaceae*) and the fact that the fragment was long past flowering, making the sepals a uniform straw colour. My own more serious failure to equate Davis 6586A with *M. parvulum* Rech. f. instead of making it the basis of a new species was chiefly due to my misidentification of a second Davis gathering from the Antilebanon (No. 9770) as *M. parvulum*. The discovery of the true identity of *M. parvulum* means that this plant (Davis 9770), collected on the Lebanon side of the mountain range, represents an unnamed new species.

This species, which is described below under the name *M. innominata*, is probably best referred, like *M. parvulum*, to Section *Minuartia* Series *Setaceae*. The type specimen is in a late fruiting stage obscuring the typical sepal structure of that group and hence giving the plant a resemblance to *M. verna* (Section *Tryphane*).

Minuartia innominata McNeill, sp. nov.

Species affinitatis aliquantum dubiae, probabiliter *M. erythrosepala* proxima, a qua sepalis lanceolatis acuminatis petalis lanceolatis subacutis calycem subexcedentibus planta dense glanduloso-pubescente differt. Ab etiam affini *M. anatolica* sepalis subtrinerviis non omnino uninerviis petalis unguiculatis et foliis et caulibus dense glanduloso-pubescentibus

divergit; a *M. parvulorum* (*M. antilibanotica* incl.) foliis pilis brevis rectis glandulosis non crispis albis eglandulosis praeditis et pedunculis et pedicellis dense glanduloso-pubescentibus (non inflorescentia ex toto glabra) facile distinguenda. In statu fructifero *M. vernam* et *M. atticam* revocat sed petalis lanceolatis subacutis calyce longioribus sepalis late scarioso et membranaceo-marginatis et venis lateralibus sepalorum indistinctioribus differt.

Planta humilis ad 8 cm. alta, caespitosa, ex toto glanduloso-pubescent. *Caudiculi* tenues c. 0.75 mm. diam., foliis mortuis praediti, 2-4 cm. longi in caules floriferos abeuntes. *Caules* steriles sub anthesi deficientes; caules floriferi dense glanduloso-pubescentes, foliis 4-5-jugis congregatis et superne 1-2-jugis \pm remotis praediti. *Folia* subulato-setacea, 3-6 mm. longa, trinervia, dense glanduloso-pubescentia ad basim membranaceo-marginata; folia inferiora turiones incipientes 6-10 foliis instructos subtendentia. *Inflorescentia* 1-4-flora; bractae subfoliosae, 2-4 mm. longae, anguste triangulares late membranaceo-marginatae; pedicelli densissime glanduloso-pubescentes, 3-5 mm. longi. *Sepala* lanceolata, 3.5-4.0 mm. longa, acuminata, saepe purpurascens, late scarioso et membranaceo-marginata, sparse glanduloso-pubescentia (ad basim dense) vel sepalis interiora subglabra, trinervia, nervo mediano prominente nervis lateralibus indistinctis. *Petala* lanceolata, 4-4.5 mm. longa et c. 1.5 mm. lata, subacuta, unguiculata, sepalis subexcedentia. *Stamina* 10; filamenta c. 3.0 mm. longa. *Capsula* anguste ovoidea c. 3 mm. longa et c. 1.5 mm. lata, calyce inclusa. *Semina* pauca (c. 4-6) inaequaliter reniformia, 0.8 mm. longa et 0.6 mm. lata, obscure tuberculata, epapillosa.

Typus: LEBANON: ANTILEBANON: Hursh Imarra between Talaat Musa & Bir Jebab. Rocks, 7500 ft. [2286 m.], 12 August 1945; P. H. Davis 9770. (sub *M. parvulorum* Rech. f. det. J. McNeill). Holo. E!, iso. K!

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